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Algeria

Grain and Feed Update

Grain Planting Update

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Report Highlights:

Algeria's grain planting season started on time with good rainfall and was completed under fairly satisfactory conditions. Total area planted to grains is estimated at 2.3 million HA, of which 980,000 HA planted with barley.

Post: Commodities:

Algiers

Grain Plantings and Production

Algeria's grain planting season this year started on time with good rainfall. Planting was completed under fairly satisfactory conditions throughout the country. Government estimates indicate that a total of about 2,300,000 HA of grain area was planted by mid- December, of which about 980,000 HA planted with barley.

Farmers were encouraged to grow more wheat this crop year due to the availability of sufficient barley stocks from last year's crop that reached 2.41 million MT, and renewed price incentives provided the GOA to local wheat producers. The price support was initiated by the GOA in 2008 in order to make domestic wheat competitive international price levels and to boost domestic wheat collection.

Currently, the Office of Cereals Cooperatives buy durum wheat from farmers at 45000 AD (\$633) per metric ton and bread wheat at 35000 AD (\$492) per metric ton [based on an exchange rate of \$1=71 AD]. The GOA pays 25000 AD (\$352) per ton for barley.

The Ministry of Agriculture also made seeds and fertilizers easily available to farmers this year to encourage grain cultivation and provided some technical assistance to help improve production and yields.

As previously reported, Algeria's 2009 total grains production for MY 2009/10 reached 6.122 million tons. Total wheat production was estimated at 3.56 million tons, of which about 2.43 million tons of durum, and 1.139 million tons of common wheat. Barley production was doubled, reaching 2.41 million tons. This amount is projected to cover the domestic needs of the coming year. Oat production was very marginal and reached only 147,000 tons.